

REMARKS

Following is a discussion of the patentability of each of the pending claims.

Independent Claim 14

Claim 14 recites a lead system configured for stimulating a nerve of a patient. The lead system comprises a reservoir module storing an adhesive or an adhesive component, a lead body having a proximal end and a distal end, at least one conductor extending through the lead body, at least one electrode on the lead body and in electrical contact with the at least one conductor, one or more channels that allow for a flow of the adhesive or adhesive component to a nerve site to establish electrical contact between the nerve and the at least one electrode, and an adhesive member fixing the lead body to tissue of the patient. The adhesive member comprises the adhesive or adhesive component to the nerve. The one or more channels comprise a first channel and a second channel. The first channel allows flow of a first chemical component of the adhesive or the adhesive component and the second channel allows flow of a second chemical component of the adhesive or the adhesive component. The first chemical component and the second chemical component are delivered to the tissue at the nerve site.

The Thacker et al. reference is directed to fixing an implantable lead with a single component adhesive. The implantable lead has an electrode array at a distal end. The adhesive has properties that allow it to be injected through a lumen and orifice of the implantable lead. The Thacker et al. reference does not disclose or suggest an implantable lead system comprising a reservoir module storing an adhesive or an adhesive component and coupled to a proximal end of a lead body.

The Parry et al. reference is directed to fixing an implantable lead with a two-component adhesive. The distal tip of the implantable lead comprises a mesh plate that surrounds an electrode. The entire surface of the mesh plate is impregnated or

coated with a light-activated adhesive. The light-activated adhesive layer can be applied to the mesh plate in a viscous state and in a metered amount by a dispenser available from Loctite Corporation. The mesh plate is then enclosed within an opaque and moisture sealed package that is removed just prior to implantation. Alternatively, the light-activated adhesive can be supplied in a container with the lead so that the physician can dispense it in a viscous state in a layer on the mesh plate. The Parry et al. reference does not disclose or suggest an implantable lead system comprising a reservoir module storing an adhesive or an adhesive component and coupled to a proximal end of a lead body. In the Parry et al. reference, the first and second components of the adhesive are applied directly to the mesh plate by the physician with a dispenser, and the first and second components are applied before the mesh plate is inserted into a body of the patient. As such, the implantable lead system does not require a reservoir storing the two component adhesive and coupled to a proximal end of a lead body.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 2-8, 12, 13, 21, and 22

Claims 2-8, 12, 13, 21, and 22 depend from claim 14 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 15

For at least some of the reasons discussed previously with regards to claim 14, it is respectfully submitted that claim 15 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims 16-18, 23, and 24

Claims 16-18, 23, and 24 depend from claim 15 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 19

For at least some of the reasons discussed previously with regards to claim 14, it is respectfully submitted that claim 19 is in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claim 20, 25, and 26


Claims 20, 25, and 26 depend from claim 19 and are similarly patentable. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice of allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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